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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

James G. METZ *et al.*

Appl. No.: 08/657,749

Filed: May 30, 1996

For: **Nucleic Acid Sequences Encoding a
Plant Cytoplasmic Protein Involved
in Fatty Acyl-CoA Metabolism**

Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: P. Bui

Atty. Docket: 16518.025

Response to Restriction Requirement**RECEIVED**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAY 15 2002

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 23, 1998 (Paper Number 13), Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

REMARKS

The application presently contains claims 1-17 and 29. In the Office Action dated June 23, 1998, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: Claims 1-13, 17, and 29, drawn to a method for the production of a very long chain fatty acid (VLCFA) molecule in a plant seed cell, classified in class 800, subclass 205.

Group II: Claims 14-16, drawn to a method for decreasing the proportion of VLCFA, classified in class 536, subclass 24.5.

Upon the election of Group I, the Examiner further required election of a single species selected from the following:

- (a) *Brassica*: claims 4-6;
- (b) *Arabidopsis*: claim 7;